

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated September 4, 2008 within the shortened statutory three month period for reply. Claims 1-15 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-15. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to the title of the present invention as not being descriptive. In particular, the Examiner requires a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed, specifically, the limitations “the static image based on the plurality of frame information stored in the storage section” and “a resolution changing section for changing a resolution of the plurality of frames”. Applicants respectively disagree, but in the interest of compact prosecution, Applicants amend the title to be more descriptive. Applicants amend the title to be “IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE FOR CHANGING A RESOLUTION OF FRAMES AND GENERATING A STATIC IMAGE BASED ON INFORMATION INDICATING THE FRAMES”.

The Examiner next objects to claims 2-4, 12 and 14 for formalities. In particular, the Examiner objects to claims 2-4 as improperly depending on claim 1 when using the referencing phrase “an information generating apparatus”. Applicants respectively disagree, but in the interest of compact prosecution, Applicants amend the claims. Applicants amend the claims to instead include the phrase “an information image generating apparatus,” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Examiner objects to claims 4, 12 and 14 as the phrase “based on information generated by adding information indicating a plurality of pixels” is not very clear. Applicants respectively disagree, but in the interest of compact prosecution, Applicants amend the claims. The Examiner does not provide specific reasons for his objection, so it is not entirely clear what are the Examiner’s concerns regarding the objected phrase. However, possible concerns the Examiner might have may be related to the wording

“adding”. Applicants assert that the wording “adding” appears to imply the claimed “information indicating a plurality of pixels” is added to some other element, which is not clearly recited in the pending claim. Applicants clarify that the language “adding information indicating a plurality of pixels” refers to adding information indicting a plurality of pixels in the in-place direction to each other to generate information indicating one pixel, as described at, for example, page 27, lines 22-24, and from page 41, line 28 to page 42, line 9 of the original English specification. In other words, information indicating one pixel included in each of the plurality of frames is generated based on a summation of information indicating a plurality of pixels within an image pickup plane of an image pickup element, thereby reducing the number of pixels included in each of the plurality of frames. Applicants clarify the claim language by amending claim 4 (and similarly claims 12 and 14). Support for such amendments can be found at, for example, page 27, lines 22-24 of the original English specification.

The Examiner next rejects claims 1-7, 13 and 15 as being anticipated by Hara (US 7,057,645 B1), claim 8 as being obvious over Hara in view of Dutta (US 2003/0076408 A1), claim 9 as being obvious over Hara in view of Dutta and in further view of Kotaki (JP 2001/230965 A), claim 10 as being obvious over Hara in view of Kingetsu (US 6,181,379 B1), claim 11 as being obvious over Hare in view of Kingetsu and further in view of Okada (US 5,502,484 A), and claims 12 and 14 as being obvious over Hara in view of Sugawara (JP 2001/086398-English Abstract). Applicants respectively disagree, but in the interest of compact prosecution, Applicants amend the claims.

From the description from page 41, line 28 to page 46, line 17 regarding change of resolution of the present invention, we note that after the resolution is changed by adding actual pixels, which are included in an image pickup plane of an image pickup element, in the in-plane direction, the generated pixels by adding the actual pixels in the in-plane direction are further divided into virtual pixels in accordance with information for correcting the shaking motion. The number of virtual pixels is set to be larger than the number of actual pixels in accordance with the amount of shaking motion. The virtual

pixels are then shifted to correct the shaking motion (e.g., page 42, line 6 to page 43, line 1 of the original English specification).

Applicants assert that the cited references do not disclose or contemplate the aforementioned setting the number of virtual pixels to be larger than the number of actual pixels for correcting the shaking motion. Applicants further differentiate from the cited references by amending the independent claim 1 (and similarly claims 5 and 15).

Support for such amendments can be found at, for example, page 42, lines 6 to page 43, line 1 of the original English specification. By setting the number of virtual pixels to be larger than the number of actual pixels in accordance with the amount of shaking motion, the correction can be performed precisely in accordance with the amount of shaking motion.

The cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest at least, “the information has been corrected by setting a number of virtual pixels included in each of the plurality of frames to be larger than a number of actual pixels included in an image pickup plane of an image pickup element in accordance with an amount of shaking motion between the plurality of frames,” as similarly recited by independent claims 1, 5 and 15.

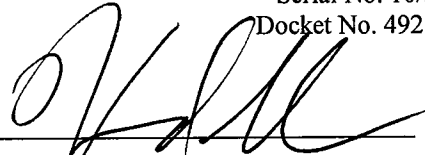
Dependent claims 2-4, and 6-14 variously depend from independent claims 1 and 5, so Applicants’ assert that dependent claims 2-4 and 6-14 are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to their own respective features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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